

**Application No.:** 09/669,869  
**Filing Date:** September 21, 2000

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-13 and 16-53 remain pending in this application. The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 29-35 and 46-53 from consideration. Claims 13, 22 and 36 have been amended.

#### *Allowable Claims 29 and 39 Incorporated into Claims 22 and 36, Respectively*

The Examiner objected to Claims 29 and 39, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 29 previously depended from independent Claim 22, and Claim 39 previously depended from independent Claim 36. Independent Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 29, and thus is now the equivalent of Claim 29 rewritten in independent form. Similarly, independent Claim 35 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 39, and thus is now the equivalent of Claim 39 rewritten in independent form. In view of these amendments, Claims 29 and 39 have been cancelled.

Since Claims 29 and 39 have been effectively rewritten as Claims 22 and 36, respectively, Applicants contend that amended Claims 22 and 36 are currently in condition for allowance. Claims 23-28 depend from independent Claim 22, and Claims 37-38 and 40-45 depend from independent Claim 36. As such, these dependent Claims are also in condition for allowance.

#### *Cancelled Claims*

In order to simplify and speed up prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-13, 16-21, 28, 29-35, 39 and 46-53 without prejudice.

#### *No Disclaimers or Disavowals*

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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